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PTO/5B (12-97)  
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| Modified Form 1448/PTO<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br>(use as many sheets as necessary) | <b>Application Number</b>     | 09/997,693               |
|   | <b>Filing Date</b>            | November 30, 2001        |
|   | <b>First Named Inventor</b>   | William P. Acker, et al. |
|   | <b>Group Art Unit</b>         | 1745                     |
|   | <b>Examiner Name</b>          | Cantelmo, Gregg          |
|   | <b>Attorney Docket Number</b> | 21535-001                |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |          |                          |            |                                     |       |           |                            |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Exam Initials         | Cite No. | U.S. Patent Document No. | Issue Date | Name of Patentee(s) or Applicant(s) | Class | Sub-Class | Filing Date if Appropriate |
| HC                    | A1       | 4,812,261                | 09/16/1988 | Tsukul, et al.                      | 429   | 13        | 08/23/1982                 |
|                       | A2       | 4,865,925                | 09/12/1989 | Ludwig et al.                       | 429   | 12        | 12/23/1988                 |
|                       | A3       | 5,082,472                | 01/21/1992 | Mallouk, et al.                     | 55    | 16        | 11/05/1990                 |
| HC                    | A4       | 6,130,175                | 10/10/2000 | Rusch, et al.                       | 442   | 77        | 05/21/1999                 |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |          |                                       |                                     |  |                     |                    |  |
|--------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| Exam Initials            | Cite No. | Foreign Patent Document Office Number | Name of Patentee(s) or Applicant(s) |  | Date of Publication | Translation Yes No |  |
| HC                       | B1       | EP 0 427 897 A1                       | Texaco Development Corporation      |  | 22.05.91            | x                  |  |
|                          | B2       | JP 2000-149965                        | Teijin Ltd.                         |  | 30.05.00            | x                  |  |
| HC                       | B3       | WO 97 41168                           | W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.        |  | 06.11.97            | x                  |  |

| OTHER PRIOR ART—NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |          |  |
|---|----------|--|
| Exam Initials                                   | Cite No. | Name of Author, Title (when appropriate), Publication, Volume, Page(s), Date, Etc. |
|   |          |  |
|   |          |  |

\* a copy of this reference is not provided as it was previously cited by or submitted to the office in a prior application, Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, and relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120 (continuation, continuation-in-part, and divisional applications).

|                           |                       |                        |         |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------|
| <b>Examiner Signature</b> | <i>Gregg Cantelmo</i> | <b>Date Considered</b> | 9/12/05 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------|

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.

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PTO/SB (12-97)  
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|                       | A1       | 4,612,261                | 09/16/1986 | Tsukui, et al.                      | 429   | 13        | 08/23/1982                 |
|                       | A2       | 4,865,925                | 09/12/1989 | Ludwig et al.                       | 429   | 12        | 12/23/1988                 |
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|                          | B2       | JP                             | 2000-149965  | Teijin Ltd.                         | 30.05.00            | x               |    |
|                          | B3       | WO                             | 97 41168     | W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.        | 06.11.97            | x               |    |

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